

OYEZ!

FEBRUARY 2012

News from your Town Council



Somerset County Council

At the recent SCC budget meeting it was agreed that there will be no rise in its element of the Council Tax.

As part of recent cost cutting, SCC has 1000 fewer employees this year than last year. County Councillor Dawn Hill also reported that the proposed cuts to the Youth Service and Young Carers are now not being made. Further consultations will take place this year. The Youth Service will continue as is through 2012-2013.

Chamber of Commerce

The Race Night on Saturday 18th February raised over £2100 to fund the **Somerset Showcase**, which will be held on Saturday 5th May 2012. Please remember that road closures will be in place in the Square and surrounding roads and these do effect residents of these streets as well as visitors—please don't arrange to move, or have large deliveries on this day!!

Farmers Market

Local community organisations wishing to use the community table at the Farmers market are asked to contact Councillor John Albone in advance on 01934 732573.

King John's Hunting Lodge

A request had been received for a grant towards the running of the Museum. The Town Council budget for 2011/12 included a grant of £1,100, and members supported this facility, which is in need of funding, so it was agreed to pay this donation to the Axbridge and District Museum Trust.

The Opening Ceremony will be held on Saturday 31st March. Anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer custodian, a Friend of the Museum, or a trustee, should contact Mrs Kate Browne on 01934 733208.

Yellow Line Review

A list of proposed yellow line changes was approved, subject to consultation with Somerset Highways. These changes included a proposal that parking in the Square be limited to ½ hour (Mon-Sat only) with no return within 2 hours. However it was felt that changes to regulations in the Square should not be approved until local businesses have been contacted and consulted.

Cemetery

A great deal of work has taken place to improve the cemetery, particularly around the area of the Garden of Remembrance. The work will continue, and some materials will need to be burnt at the far end of the site. Any damage to the grass etc. will be reinstated. The benches at the cemetery are in an advanced state of disrepair and the Council is to investigate replacing them, possibly to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Dog fouling

There is currently a major issue with dog fouling throughout the Town, exacerbated by the recent lack of rain. The Council are investigating ways of dealing with this. The Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) is working with the Dog Warden to try and address this issue. Consideration was given to the possibility of using covert cameras at hotspots to catch the culprits. There will be zero tolerance for owners caught allowing their dogs to foul, they will be prosecuted, and the penalty for this can be up to £1000. Dog owners are asked to take responsibility for their animals and to clear up after them.



Diary Dates

The Mayor's Banquet will be held on Saturday 14th April (tickets £21 to include a three course meal). The Pageant Committee Annual General Meeting will be held on 13th March at 8.00pm in The Lamb. The next Town Council/Town Trust meeting also takes place that evening.

Axbridge Youth Centre

The Mayor outlined the proposals for a transfer of the buildings known as Axbridge Youth Centre (the old railway station) from Somerset County Council to, effectively, Axbridge Sea Cadets. The facility would still be available to other users. A draft document for this transfer was considered, and subject to minor changes to clarify that the Town Council has no financial liability, the Mayor was authorised to sign the document on behalf of the Town Council.

Oyez Distributors –Volunteers needed!

Please can you contact the Town Clerk if you feel able to offer a little time to distribute OYEZ? We have a team of volunteers delivering this newsletter to all residents and any assistance would be greatly appreciated. There is an immediate vacancy for deliveries to part of High Street

Walking Bus Shelter

It was agreed that the Town Council place the order to purchase the shelter, to ensure that it will be within their ownership, having received assurance that donations equivalent to the cost of the purchase will be received by the Town Council. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were authorised to sign the agreement.

Celebration of Axbridge Community

It was lovely to see the Church so full on Sunday 26th February as residents, and civic guests, joined the service to thank John Bailey, Beverley Davies and Pauline Ham for their outstanding contributions to the community. The awards were presented by the High Sheriff of Somerset and everyone was invited back to the town hall for tea and cake! Thank you to all of you who made this event such an enjoyable occasion!

Dress Code

It was resolved that a Smart Dress Code Policy be adopted requiring all members and officers to wear smart dress when attending public meetings and events in their capacity as a representative of the Town Council and that this policy be incorporated in Standing Orders.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor had worked 9 hours this month, 4.5 hours removing rubbish and Christmas trees dumped on the Furlong, 3 hours around Back Lane and 1.5 hours at the car park litter picking and removing leaves.

Email Addresses

Members agreed to adopt a new system for emails to standardise the email addresses of members, and of the Town Clerk, to give a more professional image and enable easier segregation of Town Council correspondence.

Annual Assembly

This meeting of residents will be held on 30th April 2012. This meeting will receive a report from the Town Council and local organisations. The possible purchase and acquisition of land at Moorland Street will be on the agenda. All residents are both invited and encouraged to attend and have the opportunity to comment on this and to raise any matters with their local councillors and the police.

Axbridge Town Car Park

Several quotes for the work required to create three additional car parking spaces in Axbridge Town Car Park were considered. The quote from Moor Services was accepted and the work will take place accordingly.

Mobile Library

Somerset Mobile libraries provide a library service to rural parts of the county. The Mobile Library visits Axbridge on Thursdays, every 4 weeks, and visits the following locations:

- Houlgate Way flats and home BS26 2BZ 2.30-2.45pm
- Axbridge Nursing Home BS26 2AA 2.50-3.05pm
- Square BS26 2BN 3.10-4.10pm

Dates for 2012 are: 8th March, 5th April, 3rd May, 31st May, 28th June, 26th July, 23rd August, 20th September, 18th October, 15th November and 13th December.

Bristol Bus

Axe Vale Coaches run a weekly bus service from Cheddar to Bristol – the 490 – which runs every Tuesday except Bank Holidays (www.axevale.com/local-services.htm for exact details and fares)

- Axbridge Square 09:13
- Bristol International Airport 09:40
- Bristol Lewins Mead Stop 10:06
- Bristol Templemeads 10:11

- Bristol Lewins Mead Stop 13:55
- Bristol Templemeads 13:59
- Bristol International Airport 14:21
- Axbridge Square 15:00

Somerset Sight

Somerset Sight will be bringing their Mobile Resource Unit to Axbridge Town Car Park on 7th March, from 10:30am – 3:30pm. The Unit stocks mobility aids such as white walking sticks and symbol canes, and games such as large print Scrabble and Braille monopoly, as well as demonstrating items from liquid level indicators and talking watches to talking microwaves and video magnifiers.

Town Clerk

If you need to contact the Town Clerk the best times to catch her are Monday-Friday 10:30am—3:30pm. In the event of the Clerk being unavailable please leave a message and your matter will be dealt with as soon as possible.

RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND MEETINGS (3RD MONDAY EACH MONTH), TO RAISE ISSUES OR JUST TO LISTEN. MATTERS MAY BE BROUGHT TO COUNCIL'S ATTENTION VIA THE TOWN CLERK MRS VICKY BRICE
07884 264033 vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk

www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk